REMARKS

Independent claims 18 and 25 have been amended.

Claims 18-20, 24-27, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankoff (US Publication 2002/0116271) in view of Cronce (US Patent 7,032,240). Claims 21-23, 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankoff in view of Cronce and further in view of Kobayashi (US Patent 6,708,182).

Independent claims 18 and 25 have been amended to recite a system and method for coupling a hand held electronic handheld product having a file system and an encrypted database file to an external PC having a reader <u>wherein the encrypted database file is accessed using the file system on the hand held electronic reference product and that file system does not provide for transferring a copy of the database file that is fully operable outside said hand held electronic reference product</u>. Support for this amendment is set forth at least on page 9, lines 8-10 and page 10, lines 3-12 and page 12, lines 1-4 and page 15-18 and page 13, lines 6-10.

Mankoff, Cronce and Kobayashi, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the limitations recited in amended independent claims 18 and 25 and fail to teach the purpose of those limitations in the present application. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a hand held device connected to an external PC through a standard USB connection, the handheld device including a file system and an encrypted database file, the external PC including a database reader application <u>wherein the database reader application accesses the encrypted database file using the file system on the hand held device and the file system on the hand held device does not provide for the transfer of a copy of the database file that is fully operative outside said hand held device</u>. Moreover, the cited references fail to

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disclose or suggest a system which provides the human factor benefit of allowing access to a database file on a hand held device using the larger monitor and keyboard of an external PC while preventing unlicensed access and use of that database file.

As shown in FIG. 1, Mankoff discloses a client computer 10 using a standard web browser to download virtual coupons from a web server computer 12, synchronizing those downloaded coupons to a hand held computing client 15 and subsequently redeeming those coupons at a remote location from hand held computing client 15. To ensure the integrity of the coupon data file, this reference also teaches the use of an unalterable digital image or a verification code to prevent alteration of the coupon data file and the use of an associated identifier used to authenticate the coupon before redemption. Therefore, while Mankoff does disclose secure distribution of coupons over the Internet, it does not disclose or suggest accessing a database file on a hand held device through a reader application on an external PC wherein the reader application uses the file system on the hand held device to access the database file and the file system on the hand held device does not provide for a fully operative copy of the database file outside of the hand held device.

As shown in FIG. 1, Cronce discloses providing access to protected information on a host system 110 by connecting portable authorization device 140 on which are stored multiple items of authorization information 171 that are used by an access control program 117 for an associated item of protected information 115 on host system 110. Once the proper authorization information 171 has been provided to access control program 117 for an associated item of protected information, the end-user on host system 110 is free to use and transfer protected information 115. Therefore, while Cronce does disclose the authorized transfer of protected

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information, it does not disclose or suggest access to a database file on a hand held device through a reader application on an external PC wherein the reader application uses the file system on the hand held device to access the database file and the file system on the hand held device does not provide for a fully functional copy of the database file outside of the hand held device.

Kobayashi discloses an IC card processing system comprising an IC card 11 connected to a terminal 13 through a card reader/writer 12 and a keyboard 14, display 15, and printer 16 connected to the terminal 13. The system provides for IC card 11 to receive externally transmitted messages through card reader/writer 12 and execute various processes in accordance with commands contained in the received messages. Therefore, while Kobayashi does disclose accessing an external IC card through a terminal connection, it does not disclose or suggest access to a database file on a hand held device through a reader application on an external PC wherein the reader application uses the file system on the hand held device to access the database file and the file system on the hand held device does not provide for a fully functional copy of the database file outside of the hand held device.

Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 8 and 25, each of which recite an external PC including a database reader application wherein the database reader application accesses the encrypted database file using the file system on the hand held device, and the file system on the hand held device does not provide for the transfer of a copy of the database file that is fully operative outside the hand held device, and those claims dependent thereon, patently distinguish over Mankoff taken alone or in combination with Cronce or Kobayashi.

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In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are

respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Lloyd McAulay
Reg. No. 20423

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-6799
(212) 790-9200

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